

# LESSON 3 - KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

*Tell about what you see in the picture.*

Once upon a time, there lived a very rich king whose name was Midas. Although King Midas lived long ago, he was very much like some people today: he was fond of gold. He loved gold more than anything in the world. When he gazed at the gold-colored clouds of a beautiful sunset, he would wish that the clouds were real gold. *He looked at the clouds for a few moments, wishing they were real gold.*



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

If King Midas loved anything as much or more than he loved gold, it was his little daughter, who was named Marygold. When Marygold would run to meet him with a bunch of buttercups, King Midas would say, "Dear child, if these flowers were as golden as they look, then they would be worth picking." *Buttercups are yellow flowers.*





# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Every day, King Midas spent many hours locked away in a dark room in the basement of the palace. In this room he stored his treasures. *Treasures can be things that are worth a lot of money, like gold.* He would go there and carefully lock the door behind him. Then he would take out bags of gold coins, and pour the coins in piles, and run his hands through them. As he did this, he would whisper to himself, "Oh, rich King Midas, what a happy man you are!" But even as he said this, he felt that he was not quite as happy as he might be. For no matter how much he had, he always wanted more.



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

One day, as King Midas was enjoying himself in his treasure room, he looked up and saw a strange young man, who shone with a golden glow. King Midas knew that he had locked the door so that no one could get into the room, yet here stood this man. And so, King Midas thought, the stranger must have some magic power. The stranger had a kind smile, so King Midas felt no fear.





# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Then the stranger spoke to King Midas: "You are a rich man, King Midas," he said.

"Yes, I have some gold," answered King Midas, "but it is not enough."

"What!" cried the stranger. "You are not satisfied?" *You are not happy or content?*

King Midas shook his head.

"What would satisfy you?" asked the stranger.



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

King Midas imagined one gold mountain heaped on top of another, and another, yet still it seemed not enough. But then a bright idea occurred to him, and he said to the shining stranger, "I wish that everything that I touch may turn to gold." *Touch is one of your five senses. With what part of your body do you touch things?*

The stranger smiled and said, "A golden touch! Are you quite sure you would be satisfied then?"



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

"Yes, I would be perfectly happy and ask for nothing more," answered King Midas.

"Then it shall be as you wish," said the stranger. "Tomorrow, at sunrise, you shall find yourself gifted with the Golden Touch." Then suddenly a great brightness filled the room, causing King Midas to squeeze his eyes shut. And when he opened them, the stranger was gone!





# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

The next morning, when the sun had hardly peeped into his room, King Midas jumped out of bed.

He touched a chair. It turned to gold.

He touched the bed and a table, and they were changed to solid gold.

He rushed to put on his shoes, and they turned to gold in his hands.

*What happens when King Midas touches things? What does it mean to have the Golden Touch?*



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

In great excitement, he opened the door and he ran outside to the garden. He saw many roses in full bloom. He went from bush to bush and touched each one, until every flower, every leaf, and every bud was changed to gold.



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Now King Midas was hungry, so he returned to the palace for his breakfast. He lifted his cup of coffee and sipped it, but the instant the liquid touched his lips it turned to gold. He tried to take a bite of a boiled egg, but it, too, turned to gold. "I don't quite see how I am to get any breakfast!" said King Midas. *Can people eat gold? What problem did King Midas have with breakfast?* Just then King Midas heard someone crying. He turned to see Marygold enter the room, crying as if her heart would break. In her hand she held one of the roses that her father had changed to gold.





# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

“Why, my little lady!” said King Midas. “What is there in this beautiful golden rose to make you cry?”

“Dear father,” Marygold answered, “it is not beautiful! It is the ugliest flower that ever grew. As soon as I was dressed this morning, I ran to the garden to gather roses for you. But what do you think has happened? All the beautiful sweet-smelling roses have been spoiled!” *The word spoiled means ruined. Do you have any idea why Marygold thinks the rose is spoiled since it is now gold?*



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

“My dear little girl,” said King Midas, who hated to see his daughter sad, “please don’t cry.” Then he bent down and kissed his child. “My precious Marygold!” he said. But Marygold did not answer.

Alas, what had he done? The moment King Midas’s lips touched Marygold’s head, her sweet, rosy face turned a glittering yellow color. Little Marygold was now a golden statue! King Midas cried out, wrung his hands, and wished that he were the poorest man in the world if only he could have his daughter back again.

*Would King Midas rather hug his daughter or a golden statue? How do you know?*





# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Then he noticed someone standing in the doorway. It was the young stranger who had appeared the day before in King Midas's treasure room. The stranger still shone with a soft glow, and he smiled as he asked the king, "Well, King Midas, how do you like your Golden Touch?"

"I am very unhappy," said King Midas.

"Unhappy?" asked the stranger. "But don't you have everything your heart desired?"





# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

“No,” said King Midas. “Gold is not everything. And I have lost all that my heart really cared for.” *What did King Midas’s heart really care for?*

Then the stranger asked King Midas, “Which of these two things do you think is worth the most: the Golden Touch or your own little Marygold?”



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

**“Oh, my child, my dear child!” cried poor King Midas. “I would not give one hair off her head even if you gave me the power to change this whole big earth into a solid lump of gold!”** *Does King Midas still feel the same way about the Golden Touch as he did when he first asked the stranger for this power, or has he changed his mind?*



# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

"You are wiser than you were, King Midas," said the stranger. "Go and plunge into the river that runs by your garden. The water will take away the Golden Touch. Then fill this pitcher with water, and sprinkle everything you have touched." King Midas bowed low, and when he lifted his head, the shining stranger was gone. Then the king ran as fast as he could and jumped into the river. He filled the pitcher and ran back to the palace. The first thing he did was to sprinkle handfuls of water over the golden figure of little Marygold.





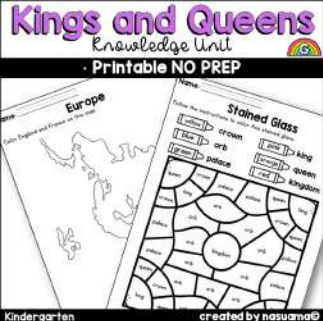
# KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

The rosy color came back into her cheeks. She looked in surprise at her father, who was still throwing water on her!

"Father, please stop!" she cried. "See how you have soaked my dress!"

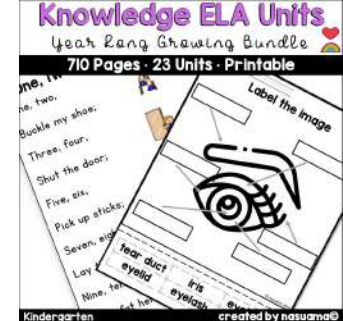
King Midas took Marygold in his arms and kissed her. "Now I am truly happy," he said. "My dear child, you mean more to me than all the gold in the world!" *What lesson has King Midas learned?*





# KINGS AND QUEENS

# BUNDLE



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## King Midas

If you get to wish something, what would it be?

DO YOU NEED EXTRA ACTIVITIES?

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